

Message

From: Schuster, Cindy [Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/23/2020 9:25:24 PM
To: Billman, Tucker [Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov]
CC: Barber, Anthony [Barber.Anthony@epa.gov]; Schuster, Cindy [Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hi Tucker,

EPA has not been able to give the petition a substantial review, which is likely to take some time, as the submission is over 1,500 pages, and was submitted just one week ago, on January 16, 2020. However, EPA is aware of the Ground Water Management Area and the important role GWMA's play in supporting assessment and management of ground water resources by state and local stakeholders. EPA does not currently have an active role in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA. The State of Oregon has primacy for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act regulation, and they have played the lead role.

Please let me know if you have questions about this response.

With my regards,
Cindy

From: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:58 PM
To: Billman, Tucker <Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hi Tucker,

Thank you for calling. I have confirmed that our office is familiar with this matter and will get back to you when I have some information.

With my regards,
Cindy

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206-553-1815

From: Billman, Tucker <Tucker.Billman@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:05 PM
To: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>
Subject: Walden - Umatilla Basin Petition Inquiry

Hey Cindy!

Thank you for taking my call today. Again, I had just wrapped up a call with Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) before calling you. They have a lot of concerns about the long standing impacts of this petition, and were hoping I could get some information from you all on.

Here is the article I mentioned when we spoke today: https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/activists-petition-epa-to-step-in-on-groundwater-emergency-in/article_d7588b8a-38b3-11ea-b6c9-672ddf79c426.html

NOWA's concern is pretty well laid out in this article. I was really just hoping for some background on EPA's end – has the EPA reviewed the petition? Is there an initial reaction from the EPA? And is the EPA aware of all of the activity that NOWA and the State are doing to work on a number of water-related issues in the Umatilla Basin?

Whatever information you can share is most helpful!

Thanks,

Tucker

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